

Colorado Mixed Ownership Mine Site Team Overview

Over the past 8 years, the EPA has lead the Colorado Mixed Ownership Mine Site Team that was established to provide a forum for Federal and State agencies, and where appropriate, local interests, to share expertise, leverage unique authorities, combine staffing, and pool financial resources in order investigate and cleanup lands and waters in Colorado impacted by historic mining activities. Mixed ownership mine sites are those watersheds which are comprised of mines located on both private and federal lands, thus no single agency has jurisdiction over the complete site. The Colorado Mixed Ownership Mine Site Team is comprised of representatives from the EPA, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the Colorado Department of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, the US Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the US Geological Survey. In addition, local governments and non-governmental organizations including Trout Unlimited and local watershed groups have participated in this effort when appropriate. Currently, the Colorado Mixed Ownership Mine Site Team is collaboratively investigating over 15 of these mixed ownership mine sites, and clean-up actions have been initiated at several of the largest dischargers of mine impacted waters including the Pennsylvania Mine (near Keystone, CO) and Chalk Creek (near Buena Vista, CO). The Team also continues to evaluate new sites and coordinate clean-up actions.